

### **REMARKS**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 1, 3-9, and 18. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 8-9 and 12-17. Applicants have cancelled claim 10. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of pending claims 1, 3-9, and 12-18.

#### **I. Amended Claims 8-9**

Allowed claims 8-9 have been amended to ensure proper antecedent basis.

#### **II. Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 112**

The Examiner rejected claims 10 and 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

##### **A. Independent Claim 10**

Applicants have cancelled claim 10. Thus, the claim rejection is moot.

##### **B. Dependent Claims 12-17**

Claims 12-17 have been amended to depend from allowed independent claim 18. Claims 14, 16, and 17 have been amended to be consistent with claim 18. Claims 12-17 are thus in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

### III. Conclusion

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1, 3-9, and 12-18. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carlo M. Cotrone".

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